

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05  
CIAE-00 PM-03 L-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 SP-02  
NEA-07 /057 W  
-----261302Z 054258 /43

P 261213Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3830

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04110

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MT, IT, FR

SUBJECT: PRIVATE NATO MEETING ON MALTA MAY 24, 1977

REF: (A) USNATO 3895 (DTG 231759Z MAY 77) (NOTAL),  
(B) VALLETTA 568 (DTG 191515Z MAY 77), (C) VALLETTA 521  
(DTG 051456Z MAY 77)

1. ITALIAN PERMREP BRIEFED NATO PERMREPS AT PRIVATE MEETING MAY 24 ON GENERAL STATUS OF ITALIAN/FRENCH DIALOGUE WITH MALTA ALONG LINES OUTLINED REF C. FRENCH PERMREP  
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IDENTIFIED FRANCE WITH THE ITALIAN APPROACH. ITALIANS AND FRENCH ARE INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING WHICH MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE DESIRE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ITALIAN/FRENCH CONTACTS REGARDING NEUTRALITY TREATIES WITH AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR MALTA. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH IS THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ALLIANCE TO HELP SUPPORT MALTA'S ECONOMY. SYG LUNS SAID HE WOULD CONVENE

ANOTHER PRIVATE MEETING WHEN ALLIED REACTIONS ARE AVAILABLE. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE, AS APPROPRIATE, IN LIGHT OF THE ITALIAN/FRENCH DIALOGUE AND THE ITALIAN/FRENCH INTEREST IN OTHER NATIONAL REACTIONS.

2. AMONG THE POINTS MADE BY ITALIAN PERMREP CATALANO IN REPORTING ON THE MALTESE RESPONSE TO THE ITALIAN/FRENCH QUESTIONNAIRES REGARDING MINTOFF'S PROPOSALS FOR GUARANTEED NEUTRALITY AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY WERE:

--A) MALTA'S "ACTIVE" NEUTRALITY WOULD BE A FIRST STEP TOWARDS A MEDITERRANEAN REGION AIMING AT PEACE AND PROGRESS;

--B) A NEUTRAL MALTA WILL AGREE NOT TO PERMIT ANY COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASES ON ITS SOIL OR THE USE OF ANY MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON MALTA OTHER THAN FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ISLAND;

--C) NEUTRALITY WILL GO HAND IN HAND WITH NON-ALIGNMENT AND IMPLIES THAT MALTA WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF US OR SOVIET FORCES;

--D) THE DRAFT NEUTRALITY TREATY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, FRG, TUNISIA, MOROCCO AND OTHERSSIC. MALTA PARTICULARLY HOPES ITS NEUTRALITY WILL BE GUARANTEED BY THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, DIVIDED AS EVENLY AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN SOUTHERN EUROPEAN AND NORTH AFRICAN STATES, BUT IS KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN TO OTHER COUNTRIES  
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WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE USSR, ISRAEL AND ALBANIA;

--E) MALTA IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE NEUTRALITY AGREEMENT. VALLETTA WILL PROCLAIM MALTESE NEUTRALITY IN AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION;

--F) THE MALTA SHIPYARDS CAN OCCASIONALLY BE USED ON A PURELY COMMERCIAL BASIS BY WARSHIPS EXCEPT FOR THOSE OF THE SUPERPOWERS;

--G) MALTA WILL BE NEUTRAL IF IT RECEIVES NECESSARY SUPPORT IN AGREEMENTS FINALIZED BEFORE MARCH 1979. ECONOMIC COOPERATION SHOULD BEGIN PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF NEUTRALITY AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, THE LONGER THE DELAY, THE GREATER THE COST WILL BE TO THE GUARANTEEING COUNTRIES;

--H) MALTA IS NOT LIMITING ITS APPEAL TO FRANCE AND ITALY AND SUGGESTED THE DIALOGUE BE EXTENDED TO OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS.

3. ACCORDING TO CATALANO, FRANCE AND ITALY TOLD MALTA:

--A) THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO MALTA'S DECISION TO BE NEUTRAL AND WERE INCLINED TO TAKE OFFICIAL NOTE OF THIS DECISION. THE MODALITIES WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF LATER CONVERSATIONS WITH MALTA.

--B) ITALY AND FRANCE ARE PREPARED TO FURNISH MALTA WITH A GUARANTEE THAT IN THE CASE OF A VIOLATION OF MALTESE NEU-

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NEA-07 /057 W

-----261302Z 054163 /43

P 261213Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3831

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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LIMDIS

TRALITY, THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH MALTA AND OTHER MEDITERRANEAN STATES AIMING AT EXAMIN-  
ING THE SITUATION AND CONSIDERING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT BE ADOPTED.

--C) ITALY AND FRANCE HAVE UNDERTAKEN A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF MALTA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WILL ENDEAVOR TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE TO FIND APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS PERMITTING THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF THE ISLAND AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THAT SURVIVAL.

4. IN A BRIEF INTERVENTION AT THE CONCLUSION OF CATALANO'S PRESENTATION, FRENCH PERMREP TINE ASSOCIATED FRANCE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ITALIAN APPROACH. TINE ALSO ASKED LUNS ABOUT THE STATUS OF NATO'S AD HOC GROUP ON MALTA AND WAS TOLD BY LUNS THAT IT "FUNCTIONS BUT SLEEPS."

5. COMMENT: NO MENTION WAS MADE OF A POSSIBLE NATO STUDY OF MALTA, AND LUNS' COMMENTS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE AD HOC GROUP IN MALTA DID NOT BETRAY ANY PRESENT INTENTION TO EXPAND ITS MANDATE TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A REVIEW. REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR REACTIONS, THE US AND CANADA WERE CLEARLY INCLUDED DESPITE THE EC FOCUS IN THE ITALIAN DESCRIPTION OF MALTA'S APPROACH, AS REFLECTED IN THE ITALIAN/FRENCH DILOGUE WITH MINTOFF. END COMMENT. BENNETT

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